LA MARTINIERE MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2026

BACKGROUND GUIDE



SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates,

As a part of the Executive Board, it is my responsibility to facilitate your educational experience at the simulation of the **UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 4 (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)** at **LMUN 2026**. I am certain that attending this conference is an opportunity for all of us to come together, debate global issues and experience the art of diplomacy. This background guide contains some basic elements on the topic that will guide your research. However, such mentions do not limit the scope of discussion in the committee at all. I expect from all delegates an active participation in the proceedings of this committee to have a fruitful discussion on a pertinent global problem.

I expect from all delegates an active participation in the proceedings of this committee to have a fruitful discussion on a pertinent global problem. For that purpose, extensive and thorough research is expected of you over and beyond this study guide. Think of this study guide as merely an initiation to your research, defining the broad aspects. This background guide will give you an overview of the topic at hand and the work of the Committee. However, such mentions do not limit the scope of discussion in the committee at all. If you have questions concerning your preparation for the committee or any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at specpol.lmun26@gmail.com or parthmangal.muns@gmail.com.

Regards,
Executive Board (UNGA – SPECPOL)

Parth Mangal
Chairperson

Samridh Gupta
Vice - Chairperson

THE NATURE OF PROOF/EVIDENCE IN COMMITTEE

EVIDENCE OR PROOF IS ACCEPTABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES

→ News Sources:
State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are –

1. Reuters *(Thomson Reuters Corporation)* (United Kingdom) https://www.reuters.com/
2. RIA Novosti (Russia) http://en.rian.ru/, IRNA (Iran) http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm,
3. BBC (United Kingdom) http://www.bbc.co.uk/
4. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. Of China) https://english.cctv.com/news/

→ Government Reports:
These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are Government Websites like:

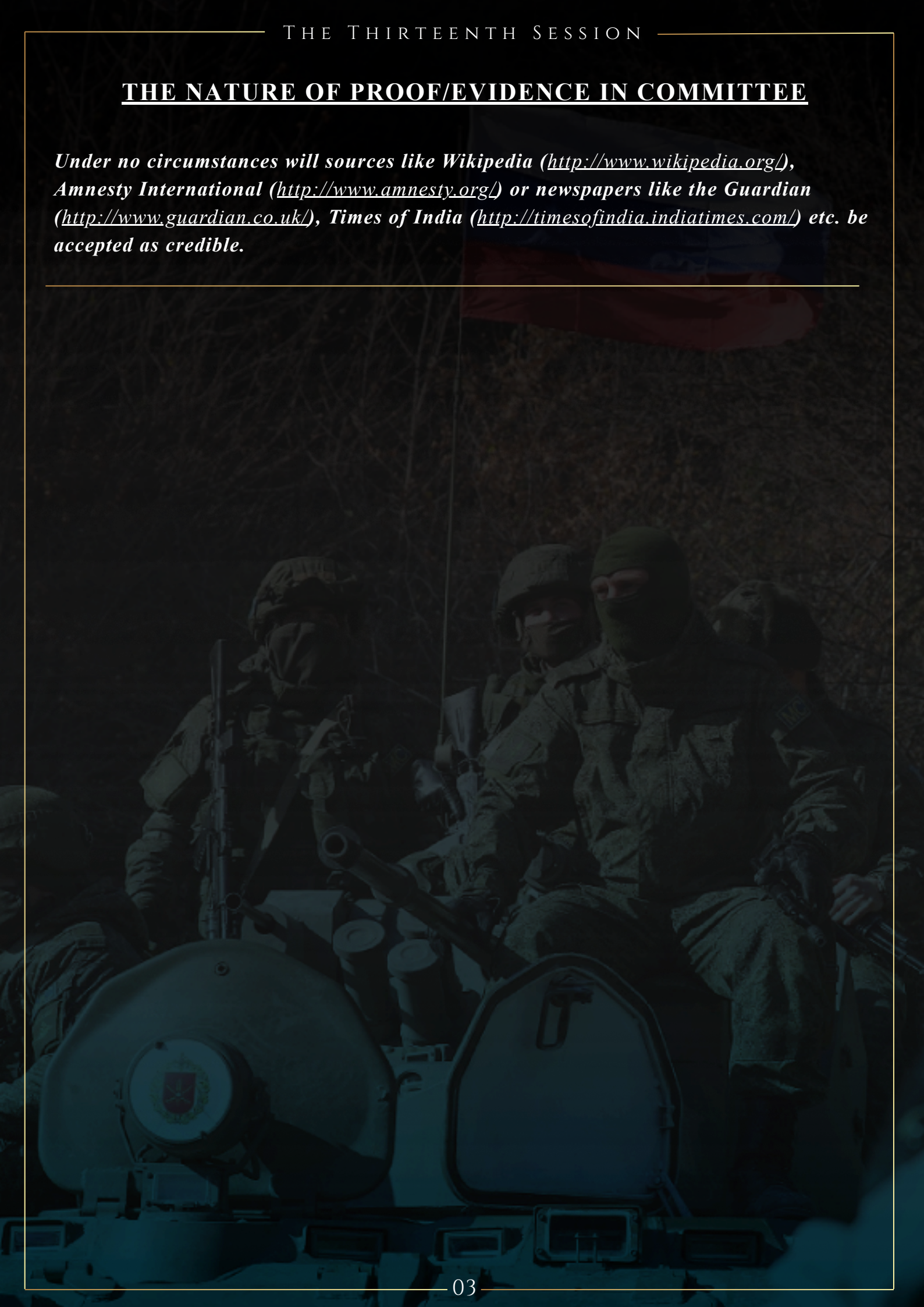
1. State Department of the United States of America: http://www.state.gov/index.htm,
2. Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation: http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm,
3. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports: http://www.un.org/en/members/ (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.
4. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO (http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm) ASEAN (http://www.aseansec.org/), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

→ UN Reports *(if Available)*:
All UN Reports are considered as credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the General Assembly.

1. UN Bodies: Like the SC (http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/), GA (http://www.un.org/en/ga/), HRC (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx) etc.
2. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (http://www.iaea.org/), World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org/), International Monetary Fund (http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm), International Committee of the Red Cross (http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp), etc. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm), the International Criminal Court (http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC).

THE NATURE OF PROOF/EVIDENCE IN COMMITTEE

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (http://www.wikipedia.org/), Amnesty International (http://www.amnesty.org/) or newspapers like the Guardian (http://www.guardian.co.uk/), Times of India (http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/) etc. be accepted as credible.



STAKEHOLDER'S ANALYSIS

WHAT IS A STAKEHOLDER'S ANALYSIS

For the delegates of this committee, instead of keeping the conventional position paper as a pre-conference documentation, which is required to be submitted, we have instead kept a Stakeholder's Analysis.

A Stakeholder's Analysis is a structured document assessing the key countries, organisations, communities, and other actors connected to the agenda, and is designed to assist the preparation of delegates to understand who is affected by the issue, what interests they seek to protect, what their position is, what actions they have previously taken, and what solutions they are likely to support or oppose.

For this agenda, the analysis should enable delegates to go beyond a general understanding of the Northern Caucasus and examine each stakeholder's perspective on self-determination, political autonomy, equal rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity, while also identifying the political, security, legal and economic considerations that shape its position.

FORMAT

Committee Name:
Stakeholder Name:

1. Stake in the Issue:
What is the country's stance on the issue?
2. Core National Interests:
What are the country's principal security, political, legal and economic interests?
3. Position on Self-Determination, Political Autonomy and Territorial Integrity:
How does the country interpret these principles, and how does it balance them?
4. Previous Actions and Evidence:
What official statements, votes, policies or historical actions demonstrate this position?
5. Proposed Solutions
What does the country want the committee to do, and what proposals would it reject?

The Stakeholder's can be submitted to us latest by 26-10-26 via email specpol.lmun26@gmail.com

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations is the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, otherwise known as SPECPOL. Established in 1993, SPECPOL is the combination of the Decolonization Committee (formerly the Fourth Committee) and the Special Political Committee. This committee's inception took place in 1990 when the United Nations established 1990-2000 as the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism." This was particularly important considering at the time of the United Nation's creation, 750 million people lived in what would be considered to be a colonized territory. Over eighty former colonies have become independent since 1945. Today, in part due to the work of the Fourth Committee, this number has drastically decreased to approximately two million, an amount SPECPOL is still determined to address. SPECPOL includes all 193 Member States, uniting to alleviate developing countries' dependencies on former colonizing powers.

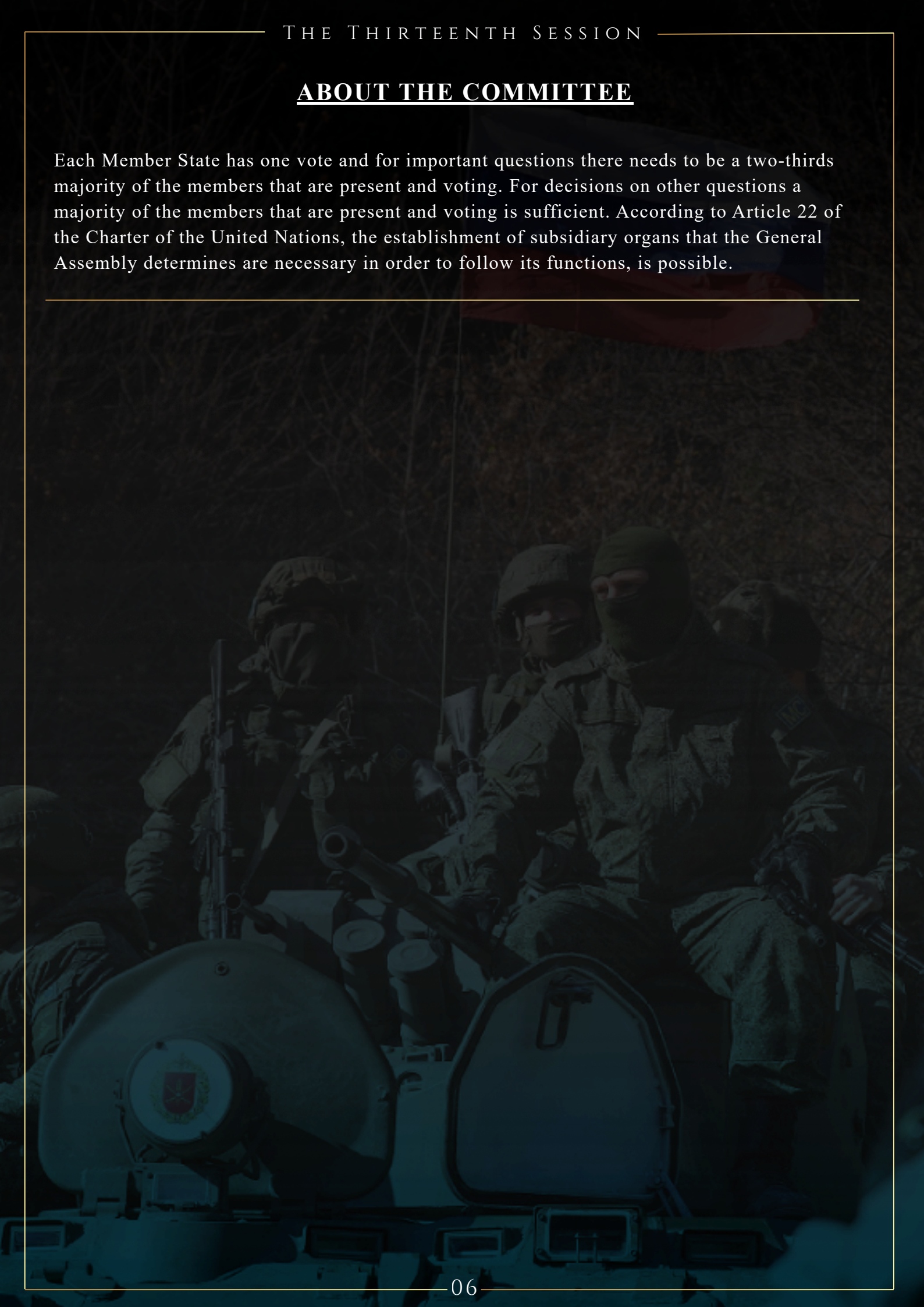
The committee derives power from its mandate in Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, which commits to the preservation of the rights and dignities of people living in non-self-governing territories. The committee passes resolutions with suggestions on the optimal ways for the United Nations and member states to address the issues of colonized people. According to its mandate, the Fourth Committee can discuss issues such as self-determination, decolonization, and peacekeeping efforts. While SPECPOL was derived from the Disarmament and International Security Committee, it takes on issues that the First Committee does not address, as well as looking at topics with a wider scope. Unlike other UN committees, SPECPOL shines a spotlight on issues pertaining to occupation, colonization, and subjugation, with the primary goal of making all countries independent and self-sufficient from outside powers.

As per its mandate, SPECPOL is not able to take military action and many of its resolutions are passed along as suggestions to the Security Council, which ultimately decides whether or not the plan of action will be carried through. Since its inception, SPECPOL has passed many resolutions addressing the quality and framework of information technology in developing countries, paying special attention to the development of the United Nations' Department of Public Information.

The Special Political and Decolonization committee holds a very unique role in the United Nations. While other main committees aim to resolve current global issues, SPECPOL concerns itself with healing countries from the lasting impact of their troubling histories. The committee's foremost goal is to ensure that all countries enjoy the benefits of the independence to which they are entitled, and only when all countries are economically, culturally, and socially liberated can the world move forward. SPECPOL deals with a wide range of topics such as outer space, mine action, public information, decolonization, peacekeeping, and Palestinian refugees and human rights. As stated in Article 9 of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly consists of all Member States of the United Nations. The Charter further outlines the functions and powers of the General Assembly in Articles 10 - 17.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Each Member State has one vote and for important questions there needs to be a two-thirds majority of the members that are present and voting. For decisions on other questions a majority of the members that are present and voting is sufficient. According to Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, the establishment of subsidiary organs that the General Assembly determines are necessary in order to follow its functions, is possible.



ABOUT THE AGENDA

KEY DEFINITIONS

1. **Self-Determination**

Self-determination means that people have the right to choose their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development. According to Article 1(2) of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), every nation should respect the principle of equal rights and self-determination.

However, it should be noted, that self-determination does not mean to give a right to establish an independent state. The principle should exist along with other fundamental rules of international law, including sovereign equality, non-intervention and respect for territorial integrity. General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, recognizes both the principle of equal rights and self-determination and the obligation to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of states.

2. **Political Autonomy**

Political autonomy refers to the ability of a nation or a community to exercise authority over matters affecting its internal affairs while remaining part of a larger sovereign state. Autonomy is therefore different from independence. An autonomous region remains within the sovereign territory of the state, while possessing some degree of self-government.

3. **Territorial Integrity**

Territorial integrity refers to the state's territorial protection and political independence from unlawful external interference and the use of force. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits states from using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state. Resolution 2625 creates an important clarification; it states that this protection applies to states that conduct themselves in accordance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination and possess a government representing the whole population without discrimination.

4. **Equal Rights**

Equal rights refer to the principle that all people should be able to participate in political, social, economic and cultural life without discrimination. Resolution 2625 links the principle of self-determination with the requirement that governments represent their entire populations without discrimination. Equal rights therefore have an individual and a collective form. Individuals should be protected from discrimination based on characteristics such as ethnicity, religion or language, while a group of people should be able to participate meaningfully in determining their political future.

ABOUT THE AGENDA

5. **Minority Rights**

Minority rights concern the protection of individuals belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, particularly their ability to preserve and express their cultural, religious and linguistic identities. Minority rights do not automatically create a right to political independence. A minority may be entitled to cultural, religious and linguistic protections while remaining fully within an existing state. The protection of minority rights can become connected to self-determination arguing that persistent discrimination or exclusion prevents them from participating meaningfully in political life.

6. **Internal Self-Determination vs External Self-Determination**

Internal self-determination concerns the ability of a people to participate meaningfully within an existing state. It can involve democratic participation, political representation, regional autonomy, cultural protection and the ability to influence decisions affecting the community. It therefore seeks to realize self-determination without necessarily changing international borders.

External self-determination concerns the determination of a people's international political status and can, involve the creation of an independent state. Historically, the clearest application of external self-determination occurred in the context of decolonization. Resolution 2625 itself recognizes independence, association, integration and other political statuses as possible modes of implementing self-determination.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Geography and Strategic Significance

The North Caucasus include seven federal subjects: Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia-Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia and Stavropol Krai.

Historically, control over these areas has been connected to Russian security concerns, access to transport routes, relations with the Ottoman and Persian empires, and influence over the wider Black Sea and Caspian regions. For the Russian Empire and the Soviet and Russian states, maintaining control over the North Caucasus was consequently closely connected to the security of the southern frontier.

Russian Imperial Expansion

Russian involvement in the Northern Caucasus increased exponentially from the eighteenth century. The Russian Empire wanted to consolidate its southern frontier and establish control over territories connecting the Black Sea and Caspian regions. Russian expansion was a slow and a gradual process. It involved military conquest, fortification, settlement, administrative incorporation and shifting alliances with local communities. The impact of the expansion was that it changed the political landscape of the region. Communities that had varying degrees of autonomy were incorporated into an imperial administrative structure.

The Caucasian War, 1817 to 1864

The **Caucasian Wars,** was the prolonged military battle associated with the Russian Empire's conquest of the North Caucasus. The war was fought involving a number of communities across the region rather than a single front.
Imam Shamil became the most prominent leader of resistance in the eastern Caucasus. He maintained resistance heading a political and religious movement that challenged Russian expansion for decades. He surrendered in 1859 marking a major turning point in the eastern Caucasus.

The war formally ended in 1864 with Russian victory. Its consequences, however, extended far beyond military incorporation. The displacement of Circassians and other populations transformed the demographic composition of the region and created a large North Caucasian diaspora, particularly in the Ottoman Empire.
The conclusion of the Caucasian War brought much of the Northern Caucasus under Russian imperial control. However, military incorporation did not eliminate distinct ethnic, linguistic and religious identities. Instead, memories of conquest, resistance and displacement became part of the historical foundations for later political claims.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Soviet Nationality Policy

After the establishment of Soviet rule, the political landscape of the Caucasus went through another major change. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Soviet authorities attempted to include the diverse people of the North Caucasus into the Soviet political and economic system while simultaneously recognizing nationality through territorial and administrative structures. Due to the Soviet nationality policy, many autonomous republics, regions and districts associated with particular nationalities were created and reorganized repeatedly. While this gave certain communities formal territorial recognition, the boundaries of these administrative units did not always correspond neatly with ethnic settlement patterns. As a result, disputes between communities over land territorial administration, political representation and historical territories were created or reinforced.

The Stalinist period produced some of the most traumatic episodes in the region's twentieth-century history. In 1943 and 1944, several North Caucasian peoples, including Chechens, Ingush, Karachays and Balkars, were forcibly deported by the Soviet authorities, to Central Asia and other parts of the Soviet Union. The deportations were justified by the Soviet authorities through accusations of collaboration with enemy and other forms of disloyalty. After Stalin's death, many of the deported communities were rehabilitated and allowed to return. However, their return did not completely resolve questions concerning territorial boundaries, property, political representation and relations between different communities. These unresolved issues became particularly significant during the final years of the Soviet Union.

Collapse of the USSR and the Emergence of Separatist Movements

In 1991, **Dzhokhar Dudayev** emerged as the principal leader of the Chechen independence movement. After his election as president of Chechnya, he declared the territory independent from Russia. Moscow rejected the declaration and maintained that Chechnya remained part of the Russian Federation. The dispute soon became a direct confrontation between claims of self-determination and territorial integrity.

First Chechen War from 1994 to 1996

Russian forces attempted to reestablish federal control while Chechen forces resisted. Extensive destruction and civilian suffering were caused by the conflict and it also generated significant displacement. The war ended with the Khasavyurt agreements of 1996, under which Russian forces withdrew and the question of Chechnya's final political status was effectively postponed. The resulting period provided Chechnya with substantial de facto independence, although it did not receive international recognition as an independent state. The conflict is widely regarded as a critical turning point in post-Soviet Russian policy toward the North Caucasus.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS

The settlement was short-lived. In 1999, forces led by **Shamil Basayev** entered Dagestan in an attempt to initiate an uprising against the Russian authority. This was preceded with bombings in Russian cities and the broader breakdown of relations between Moscow and Grozny, caused the **Second Chechen War** and the eventual restoration of Russian control.

The conflict also resulted in the expansion of an armed Islamist movements across parts of the North Caucasus. Insurgency affected areas including Dagestan, Ingushetia and Kabardino-Balkaria. Russian authorities framed the conflict through the lens of counterterrorism and national security. The international human-rights bodies, on the other hand documented allegations involving torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the region.

The United Nations human-rights system has repeatedly addressed the situation. For example, the UN Committee Against Torture has expressed concern over allegations of torture, abductions, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the Northern Caucasus and called for effective investigations and accountability. Earlier UN bodies also documented allegations of widespread violence against civilians and serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law during the Chechen conflicts, while simultaneously condemning abuses committed by Chechen armed groups.



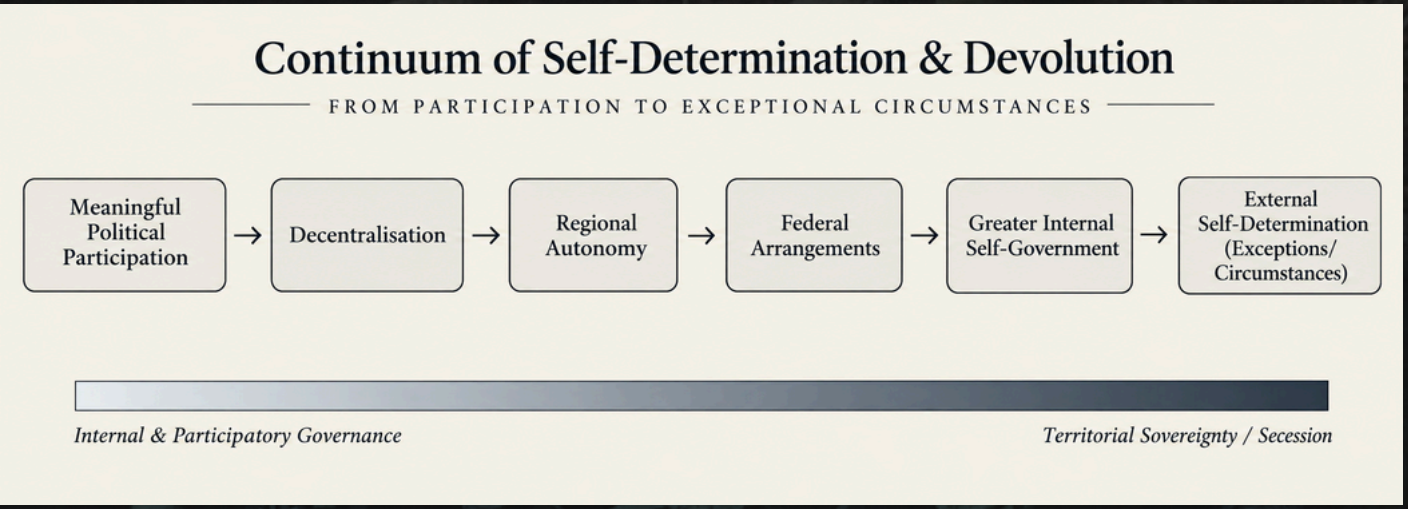
CORE ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. **Self-Determination versus Territorial Integrity**

Self-determination refers to the right of a "people" to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. It is important to distinguish between **internal** and **external self-determination**.

This is where territorial integrity becomes significant. Territorial integrity protects the territorial unity and political independence of existing sovereign states. The legal challenge for this Committee is therefore not simply to decide whether self-determination is "good" and territorial integrity is "bad"; rather, delegates must examine *how meaningful self-determination can be accommodated without automatically converting every demand for political autonomy into a claim for statehood.*

For the Northern Caucasus, delegates should therefore imagine a spectrum:



Refer to:

UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV)
the sections on "equal rights and self-determination of peoples" and "territorial integrity."

ICCPR - Article 1
connects self-determination with political status and economic, social and cultural development.

Helsinki Final Act - Principles IV and VIII
Principal IV deals with territorial integrity; Principal VIII deals with equal rights and self-determination. The important point is that these principles exist together, not independently.

CORE ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

2. Political Participation and Autonomy

Political participation

Political participation means that people affected by governmental decisions should have genuine and effective opportunities to participate in public affairs. It goes beyond simply holding elections. Delegates should consider representation in regional institutions, access to public office, participation in policymaking, freedom of political expression, and the ability of minority communities to influence decisions affecting them.

The important distinction is between formal participation & effective participation.
A community may technically have the right to vote while having little meaningful ability to influence political decisions. Therefore, delegates should ask whether participation is inclusive, representative and effective, rather than merely whether elections exist. The OHCHR specifically discusses the requirement that minority participation in decision-making must be effective and genuine, rather than merely consultative.

Autonomy

Autonomy means a degree of self-government within an existing sovereign state. It does not necessarily mean independence.
For the Committee, autonomy can be imagined through areas such as:

- Regional legislative authority;
- Local administration;
- Protection of language and culture;
- Education policy;
- Cultural institutions;
- Regional economic development;
- Participation in decisions affecting the region.

Federalism

Federalism is a constitutional arrangement in which governmental authority is constitutionally divided between a central government and territorial units. It can therefore provide institutional mechanisms through which regional communities exercise internal political authority while remaining part of the same sovereign state.



CORE ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

Refer to:
OHCHR - Human Rights and Elections
understanding of effective political participation, particularly minority participation.

ICCPR- particularly Articles 25, 26 and 27
political participation, equality/non-discrimination and minority cultural rights.
Council of Europe, North Caucasus report
regional application of the concepts, particularly political opposition, regional governance and rule of law in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia.

3. **Protection of Equal Rights**

The Committee should understand equal rights as a substantive political question, not merely a prohibition on discrimination. The question is whether people belonging to different ethnic, linguistic, religious or cultural communities can enjoy their rights equally and effectively. This includes:

- Equality before the law;
- Freedom of expression and association;
- Political participation;
- Freedom of religion;
- Cultural and linguistic rights;
- Access to justice;
- Protection from arbitrary treatment;
- Protection of women and vulnerable groups;
- Protection of journalists, civil society and human-rights defenders.

For the Northern Caucasus, this becomes particularly important because the protection of regional or minority identity cannot be separated from the protection of individual rights. Collective cultural identity and individual human rights must therefore be considered together.

ICCPR Articles 2 and 26

UN Declaration on Minority Rights / OHCHR minority resources
Particularly useful for language, cultural identity and participation.
Council of Europe - North Caucasus
seeing what “equal rights” looks like as an actual regional problem rather than an abstract legal principle.

1. Education, Economic Opportunity and Social Development

This should be treated as a practical dimension of self-determination and equal rights, rather than as a separate development agenda.

CORE ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

The underlying question is:

Can a population meaningfully determine and develop its political, economic, social and cultural future if significant sections of that population lack equal access to education, employment, economic resources or public services?
Education is particularly important because it affects political participation, employment, cultural preservation and social mobility. In a region containing numerous linguistic and ethnic communities, delegates can also examine the relationship between education and cultural/linguistic identity.

Economic opportunity similarly involves questions of equal access to employment, development, infrastructure and resources.

Social development includes access to public services, health, education and social protection. This is directly connected to the wording of **Article 1 of the ICESCR**, which links self-determination with the pursuit of economic, social and cultural development.

Refer to:
OHCHR - Education and Minority Language Rights
discuss education as a mechanism for preserving cultural identity without creating exclusion.
OHCHR - Minority participation, education and economic inclusion

This source connects education, economic inclusion, social cohesion and participation.

4. **Implementation and International Cooperation**

Possible areas of implementation include:

- **Monitoring** - How can compliance with human-rights and participation standards be assessed?
- **Dialogue** - How can governments and regional communities engage in meaningful political dialogue?
- **Institution-building** - How can regional institutions, courts, administrative bodies and civil society contribute to accountability?
- **International cooperation** - What legitimate forms of assistance can international organisations provide without violating sovereignty and non-intervention?
- **Development cooperation** - Can education, employment and infrastructure programmes reduce structural inequalities?
- **Confidence-building** - Can international monitoring, dialogue and cooperation reduce tensions between central authorities and regional populations?
- **This is where the Committee must be careful:** *international cooperation does not mean international actors imposing a political settlement on the Russian Federation.*

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

1. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The **Russian Federation** is the principal state stakeholder in the agenda because the territories of the Northern Caucasus are constitutionally situated within the Russian Federation. The federal government therefore occupies the central position in balancing territorial integrity, national sovereignty, regional governance and the protection of fundamental rights. Delegates should examine the relationship between federal authority and regional institutions, particularly the extent to which regional governments possess meaningful administrative and political authority while remaining subject to the constitutional framework of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation should therefore not be viewed solely as a party responsible for protecting territorial integrity, but also as the *primary duty-bearer with respect to the rights and political participation of individuals residing within its territory*.

2. PEOPLES AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS

The peoples and regional communities of the Northern Caucasus constitute the populations directly affected by questions of self-determination, political participation and equal rights. The region is characterised by considerable ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity, meaning that it should not be treated as a single political constituency with one uniform political objective. Delegates should therefore distinguish between the interests of different communities, including Chechens, Dagestani peoples, Ingush, Ossetians, Kabardians, Balkars, Karachays, Cherkess and Adyghe communities. Their interests may concern political representation, cultural and linguistic preservation, regional governance, economic development and protection from discrimination, rather than necessarily constituting demands for independence.

The diversity of these communities also means that the Committee must consider self-determination at an internal level, rather than assuming that every demand for greater recognition or autonomy necessarily constitutes a claim to statehood. Questions of language, education, cultural preservation, regional representation and participation in local governance can all form part of how communities exercise their rights within an existing state.

3. CIVIL SOCIETY AND AFFECTED GROUPS

Civil society and affected groups represent an important non-state dimension of the agenda because the implementation of equal rights ultimately depends upon the ability of individuals and organisations to participate in public life, express grievances and seek accountability. This includes journalists, human-rights defenders, women's organisations, youth groups, religious communities, educational institutions and local civil-society organisations. Their role is particularly important in identifying the gap between rights formally guaranteed by law and their effective enjoyment in practice.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The experience of the Northern Caucasus demonstrates that civil-society actors can themselves become subjects of concern. For example, the OSCE has previously expressed concern regarding the detention of Oyub Titiev, head of the Memorial Human Rights Centre in Chechnya, and called for respect for his rights, including access to legal representation and protection from judicial harassment. The OSCE also condemned the 2009 killing of journalist and human-rights defender Natalia Estemirova, highlighting the risks faced by individuals documenting human-rights violations in the region. *This makes civil society relevant not merely as an observer, but as a mechanism through which violations can be documented, grievances communicated and accountability pursued.*

1. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

International organisations have a role in monitoring, norm-setting, technical cooperation, human-rights promotion and dialogue, rather than determining the constitutional or territorial status of the Northern Caucasus. The United Nations provides the broader legal framework through the principles of self-determination, sovereign equality, human rights and international cooperation, while the OSCE provides a particularly relevant regional framework through the Helsinki Final Act.

The OSCE has historically had a direct operational presence in the Northern Caucasus. In 1995, it established an Assistance Group to Chechnya whose mandate included promoting respect for human rights, supporting democratic institutions, assisting with local administration and elections, facilitating humanitarian assistance, and supporting the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Group's mandate ended in 2002.

The OSCE subsequently continued to use its human-dimension mechanisms concerning the region. In 2018, sixteen participating States invoked the **Moscow Mechanism** to examine alleged human-rights violations and impunity in Chechnya, resulting in the appointment of an independent rapporteur and a subsequent report to the OSCE Permanent Council.

These precedents demonstrate that international organisations can contribute through fact-finding, monitoring, humanitarian assistance, institutional support and dialogue, without necessarily determining the territorial or constitutional status of a region.

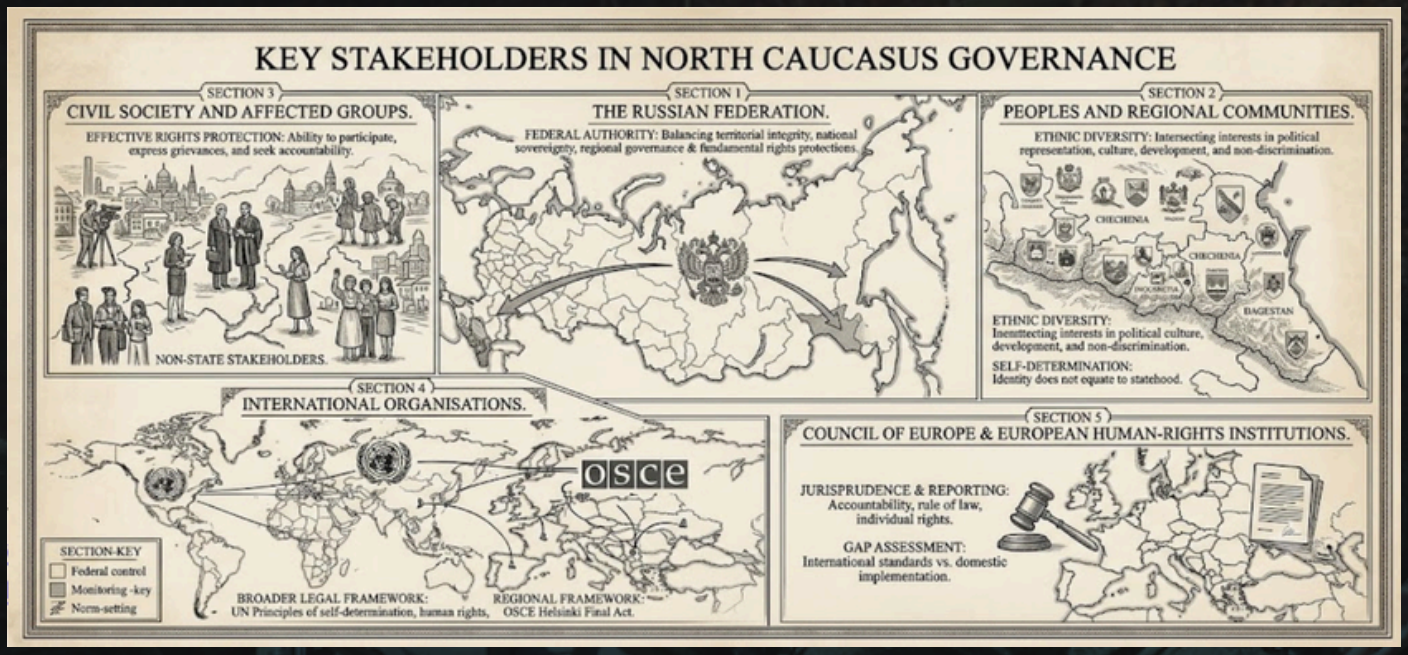
1. COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND EUROPEAN HUMAN-RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

The Council of Europe and European human-rights institutions are particularly relevant because they have developed an extensive body of reporting, resolutions and legal proceedings concerning human rights and the rule of law in the Northern Caucasus. Their involvement demonstrates how international human-rights mechanisms can address regional violations while simultaneously recognising the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has repeatedly addressed the situation in Chechnya and the wider Northern Caucasus. In Resolution 1270 (2002), for example, it called for a political solution involving the people of Chechnya and supported continued Council of Europe involvement in strengthening human rights, democratic stability and the rule of law in the region. In Resolution 1402 (2004), the Assembly reaffirmed that Chechnya remained an integral part of the Russian Federation while calling for greater attention to human rights, democracy and the rule of law and noting the establishment of a human-rights ombudsman in the republic.

The Council of Europe has also addressed more specific rights concerns. Resolution 2157 (2017) examined continuing human-rights problems in the North Caucasus, including enforced disappearances, unlawful detention, restrictions affecting women and girls, and persecution of LGBTI persons, journalists and human-rights defenders. It called for effective investigations and continued monitoring by Council of Europe bodies



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV)**

This relationship is further developed through General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

The Declaration recognises the right of peoples to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. However, it also addresses the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Importantly, *the Declaration does not establish an automatic right of unilateral secession for every ethnic, linguistic or regional community. Instead, it places self-determination within a broader framework of* ***equal rights and representative government****.*

This makes **internal self-determination** particularly relevant to the Northern Caucasus. Political representation, regional participation, cultural and linguistic protection, and involvement in decisions affecting local communities can therefore be examined as ways of giving practical meaning to self-determination without necessarily challenging territorial integrity.

2. **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

The legal framework also extends to economic, social and cultural development through the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Article 1 connects self-determination with the ability of peoples to pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The Covenant also establishes rights relating to employment and education. This introduces an important practical dimension to the agenda. Political participation alone may not be sufficient if communities experience unequal access to education, employment, infrastructure or public services.

For the Northern Caucasus, delegates can therefore examine how economic opportunity, education and social development affect the ability of regional communities to participate meaningfully in shaping their political, economic, social and cultural future.

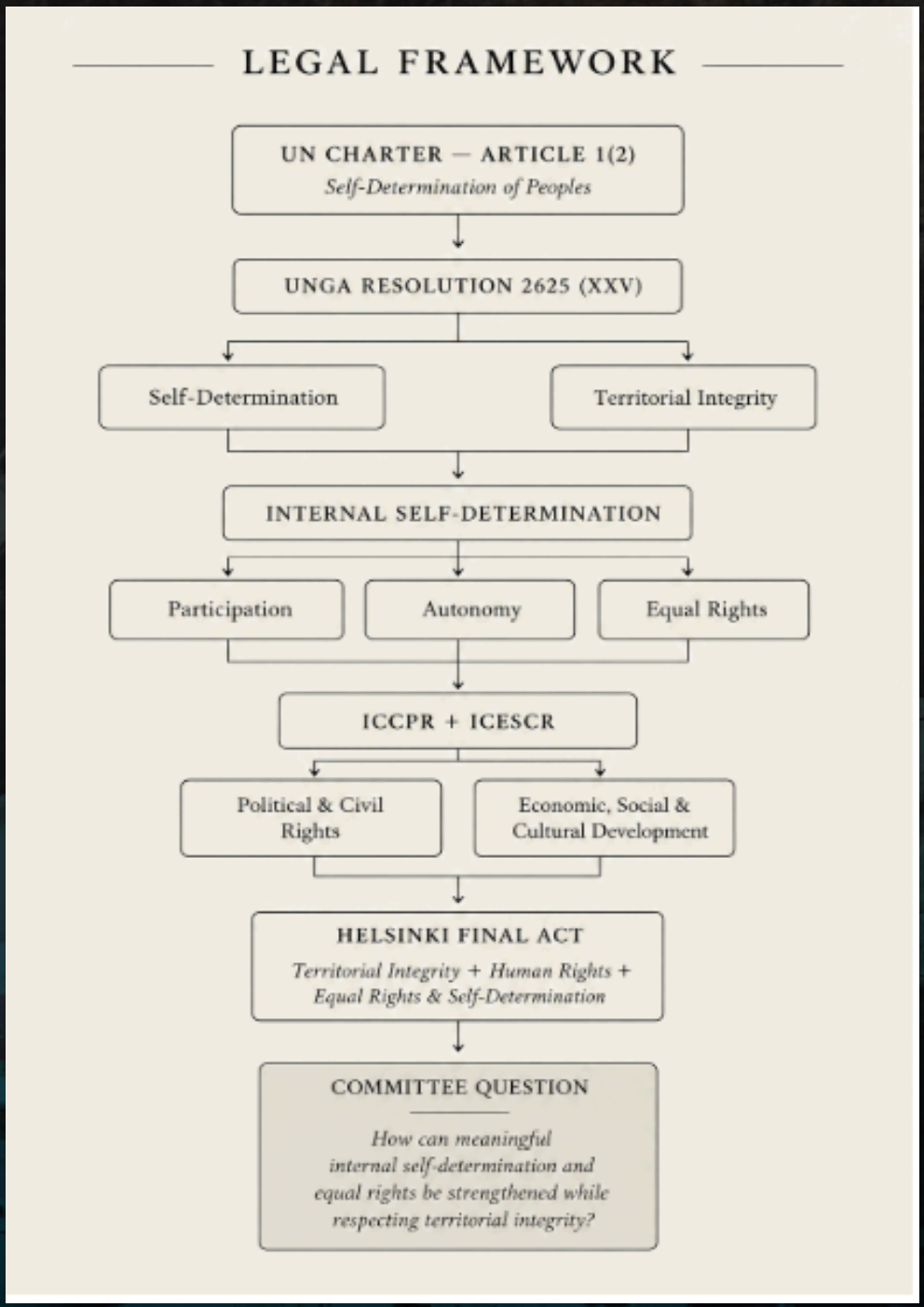
1. **Helsinki Final Act of 1975**

The regional dimension of the framework is provided by the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, adopted through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the predecessor to the OSCE.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Final Act contains principles concerning sovereign equality, territorial integrity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples. Its importance lies in the fact that these principles exist alongside one another. Territorial integrity does not eliminate the importance of human rights or self-determination, while self-determination cannot simply be interpreted independently of State sovereignty.

For this agenda, the Helsinki framework therefore supports an approach in which political participation, regional governance, cultural protection and human rights can be examined as forms of internal self-determination. The Helsinki Final Act is a politically binding commitment rather than a legally binding treaty, making its role distinct from instruments such as the ICCPR.



ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- https://books.google.co.in/books/about/Self_Determination_of_Peoples.html?id=IVDtjzY3r2gC&redir_esc=y
- https://academic.oup.com/oxford-law-pro/book/3288
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/i24675667
- **Reference re Secession of Quebec (Supreme Court of Canada, 1998):** https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/1643/index.do
- **Western Sahara Advisory Opinion (ICJ, 1975):** https://www.icj-cij.org/case/6
- East Timor (Portugal v Australia), ICJ, 1995: https://www.icj-cij.org/node/103154
- https://pace.coe.int/en/files/30064/html
- https://www.jstor.org/stable/i24675667
- https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/nationalities-papers?
- https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ga_61-295/ga_61-295.html?
- https://ichkeria.net/2026/06/24/russia-declares-the-chechen-republic-of-ichkeria-a-terrorist-organization/


LMUN
La Martiniere Model United Nations